



THE FORTRESS

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BARONY OF CAERTHE

**UNTO THE STEADFAST AND NOBLE POPULACE OF THE GREAT BARONY OF CAERTHE
DO DOMENICO AND MARIA, BARONE E BARONESSA SEND GREETINGS!**



*Domenico and Maria social distance while filming for the Outlands Dance Video.
Photo Credit: Mara Powers*

We are all eager to return to Society life. We are sure it feels strange to many of you, as it does to us, to be home every weekend during this glorious Colorado weather. Events are still currently cancelled or postponed and we await direction from the Kingdom as to when we can resume. We know that the Crown and Kingdom Seneschal have been in discussions with SCA Corporate, and events will only resume once it is deemed safe.

While events may be postponed, your Barony and the Society a whole remain active online. Thanks to everyone who has participated in

the Inter-Kingdom Dance-Off video. It brought a smile to our faces to see so many of our friends having fun and representing our mighty Outlands online! Keep a look out for the upcoming "Pass-the Sword" video, which is in the works, as well as the weekly "Show Us What You Are Doing" themed A&S display on Facebook. There have been a variety of online gatherings, hosted both within Caerthe as well as our neighboring Baronies. We appreciate the efforts of all who have put these together and encourage folks to join in on the camaraderie as they are able to do so.

Gratefully it seems our region has been spared the brunt of this pandemic for the moment, but COVID19 has struck at some within our Society both near and far. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been fighting against this disease or with other hardships as a result. Most of us at this point know someone either directly or within their families, who have faced this challenge. We give thanks to those on the front lines working tirelessly to protect us society from this crisis. Until we can raise a cheer, a toast, or a sword together again - we shall have to settle for being together in spirit.

Ever Yours in Service

Domenico e Maria

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BARONY OF CAERTHE CHAMPIONS!

A&S Champion:	Lady Chelsea Webber	Sword of Chivalry:	Lord Tyler Farquad
Archery Warden:	THL Eirikr Morrison	Premier Blade:	Lord Nova
Crossbow Warden:	Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz	Blade of Chivalry:	Godric of Caerthe
Equestrian Champion:	Lady Kublai Ksenyia	Cut & Thrust:	Lady Elora Von Effyn
Thrown Weapons:	Master Jethro Stille		
Blackthorn Bard:	L. Otto of Cote du Ciel	Warlord:	Sir Davin Drakere

BARONIAL PROGRESS:	EVENTS CALENDAR:
Note to the Populace Events through the end of July are suspended due to the COVID-19 situation in our country. 9/11-9/12 <i>Fall Crown Tourney</i> Currently Crown Tourney and Coronation are scheduled for their normal time in September 2020 and November 2020. Other events after July may still occur but please keep updated on the Facebook Pages or Email Lists. <i>Caerthen 50th Year</i> We regret to inform the populace that due to the COVID-19 crisis and the SCA's regulations on event cancellations, the seneschal, B&B and event stewards came to the difficult decision to cancel the Caerthen 50th Year Celebration that was to be held over Labor Day weekend. Please stay tuned for another event to be held in the future to celebrate the long and glorious history of our illustrious barony! We hope everyone is keeping safe during this time and look forward to seeing you as soon as possible. Lady Winter, Seneschal Maria, Baronessa Domenico, Barone	All Kingdom Events may be found here! https://www.outlands.org/events Business Meetings: CURRENTLY ONLINE VIA ZOOM 6:30pm – 8:30pm: 1st Monday of each Month At Fighter Practice: 1205 East 8th Ave. Denver, CO Please check Facebook for location. https://www.facebook.com/caerthe.sca/ Fighter Practice: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 6:00pm – 10:00pm: Monday Corona Presbyterian Church 1205 East 8th Ave. Denver, CO Archery Practice: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 9:00am-12:00pm: Sunday Scout Park, 132 E 112th Pl, Northglenn Indoor site: Empty Quiver Archery, 7180 W. 117th Ave., Unit C, Broomfield Hosted Gatherings: CANCELLED OR VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Guilds & Populace Social links: Apothecary Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-apothecary Caerthe Cavalry https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaertheCavalry Children's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-children-guild Cooks Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-cooks-guild Jeweler's Guild https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewelersGuildofCaerthe Outlands Archery and Thrown Weapons https://tinyurl.com/outlands-archery Scribe's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-scribes-guild Scola Metallorum https://www.facebook.com/ScolaMetallorum/ Canton of Ravenhyrst https://www.facebook.com/ravenhyrst Canton of Hawks Hallow https://www.facebook.com/HawksHollowSCA

BARONIAL REPORT: THE SENESCHAL

UNTO THE POPULACE OF CAERTHE, DO I, LADY ELIZABETH WINTER, SENESCHAL OF CAERTHE, SEND WARMEST GREETINGS,

As most of you know, the SCA Board of Directors are recommending that all SCA activities and events be suspended until July 31st. Their Royal Majesties, Béla and Nerissa, King and Queen of the Outlands, agree with this recommendation and have suspended all organized activities (including, but not limited to, all events, practices, classes, and meetings) until then.

A Zoom (online) meeting has been set up for the purpose of holding our Baronial business meetings. The Barony's social media officer will be posting more information regarding any future online meetings, should it prove necessary.

While we had to make the difficult decision to cancel Caerthen 50th Year due to time in planning and uncertainty on when we will be able to gather in large groups, we are still looking toward the future. The barony is still in need of Caerthen Twelfth Night event stewards, so if you are interested in running an event (and maybe throwing in some extra 50th Year surprises) please submit your bid to the seneschal and baron & baroness.

I will add a bequest to the good people of this barony:

Please continue to support, encourage, and check up on each other's physical, mental, and emotional well-being online or by phone.

How are you doing? Reach out if you have need. Think about sharing the amazing movie, book, online resource, research link, etc. you have discovered. Consider posting some pictures of the things you are working on; be it research, sewing, baking, gardening, or art in all its forms.

I earnestly urge to remember you are not alone. Conversations have not been canceled. Relationships have not been canceled. The good will and fighting spirit of Caerthe have not been canceled! Honor, chivalry, and all of the ideals that make us a SOCIETY have not been canceled! We stand together even when we must be apart. This is the mighty OUTLANDS!

Yours in Service,

Lady Elizabeth Winter

Seneschal, Barony of Caerthe

BARONIAL REPORT: THE SENESCHAL & RAPIER MARSHAL OF SCOLA METALLORUM



GREETINGS CAERTHE,

While Scola Metallorum (the Colorado School of Mines) isn't allowed to hold practice per school and Kingdom rules, we are still doing our best to keep Mines Students Involved in SCA. The above photo is taken from a video that will be shown to incoming students this fall to help recruit gentiles from the mundane Class of 2024.

M'Lord Godric (Recent graduate and acting Seneschal) fights M'Lady Rhoswyn. We hope to get new students interested in fencing and the other aspects of the SCA, so that when in-person meetings are allowed, we have an excited group of new students ready to learn!

Godric of Caerthe

Seneschal and Rapier Marshal, Scola Metallorum, Barony of Caerthe

In Memorial

by: **Master Patrick of the Quiet Woods**

By ghosts of the Outlands I've been haunted.
Faces of friends, of women and men undaunted,
they take to the field, stand and not yield.
But, before what?

Isolated with memories, I ponder over old mysteries.
How much was but a game and fun?
What part noble purpose, yet undone?

I recall once a Grand Outlandish, the strange sort of mist
had blown over the hills, down the valley and through the trees
after the last court, after the last battle,
after the crowd had gone home, like so many cattle.

That afternoon it had rained, and all that remained, were three,
the merchant Royka Khan, his lady, and me.
I remember then how so alone it felt,
as the mists took back, what had been the kingdom of Atenveldt.

Then later, waking and packing in the cold morning damp.
Only ghosts and fading footprints were left of the camp.
Gone, those days are but memories now,
still they stir within me, someday,
somehow.



Photo by HE Maria Castelana

MEET THE BARONY: CAPTION THIS PHOTO!

Send your captions to excellencies@caerthe-sca.org. The winner will be announced in the October issue of The Fortress. Photo Credit: THL Isabell de Calais



THL Isabelle De Calais & Zoey

The Adventures of Don Santiago



Picture by Lady Kára Sterki

BY MARIA CASTELANA (MKA LYNDIE CLARK)

These are the Adventures of Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz, a marine pre-salvage expert whose ship sunk many, many, many, many times. As told by Her Excellency, Baroness Maria Castelana.

Episode 1: *La Pelusa Abroja*

As the thistledown floats gracefully upon the breeze, so does *La Pelusa Abroja*, on the sea. The graceful and steadfast caravela is that of Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz, marine pre-salvage expert, swashbuckler, debonair gentleman and, let us be honest, filthy pirate. Don Santiago didn't much care for the term "pirate" so, early in his career of vile lawlessness, he sought out

sponsorship from his generous and magnanimous monarchs, King Irel Krist of Starre Inn and Queen Rosalind of Wellmark. In exchange for freedom of the seas in their Letters of Marque, he pledged his loyalty along with one-fifth of his spoils to the Crown (If you ask Don Santiago, he would tell you that only fifteen percent was agreed upon, but who are we to question our great rulers?).

Within these pages, I will tell you the story of Don Santiago's first ship, *La Pelusa Abroja* which sailed for fifteen years on the Aten Sea but did, eventually, sink. Don Santiago didn't know it at the time, but the gruesome fate of this caravela would be one repeated many times throughout his years on the sea. However, never one to be deterred by a small problem such as this, he would continue to purchase, build, and commandeer other forms of sea-faring transportation in his constant quest to appease his rulers and fill his pockets.

However, I am getting ahead of myself. To understand Don Santiago, we will first have to understand how he came into his many titles. A young musketeer, Santiago was a rash and

boisterous lad, too quick to challenge and even quicker to be bested by those more skilled than he. Determined to make a name for himself, as soon as he reached adulthood, he left home to set sail on the Frozen Seas of the North. Living as part of a crew made up primarily of young men like himself, he learned to be strong, hard-working, and sly. Most of all, he learned the ways of the water – how to sail, fish, and survive for long periods of time with no land in sight.

If I told you that during his first several years as a sailor, he experienced the sinking of a ship more times than a young man should, you likely wouldn't believe me. But nevertheless, it is all true, a harbinger of things to come. It also happened that during this time, Santiago acquired his characteristic resilience as well as his addiction to cheating death. The pump of his heart in his ears, the rush of water flooding in, the screams of crew members as they drowned, all became music to Santiago as he swept in to be the hero. Well, more or less.

This fate had befallen several ships that Santiago crewed on, so after the third (or fourth, he could never remember) incident, he found himself in control of his first ship, *La Pelusa Abroja*. The captain mysteriously disappeared one night, the first mate, too. Some speculated that they had fallen overboard during a bad storm, while others wondered if they'd been murdered most foully. Santiago, however, asserted that they had simply left—enticed by a bigger ship and a promise of greater treasure in the south. Either way, they were gone, leaving this unruly crew to their own devices.

This was a perfect opportunity for young Santiago to justify his power grab because *someone* had to maintain order. With his winning smile, dashing good looks, and silver tongue, no one argued with him. *Captain* Santiago as born! His first order: Get the hell out of the cold northern wasteland and venture into the warm Aten Sea. It was here that he sought out royal sponsorship, knowing well that King Irel and Queen Rosalind held him in high regard. Santiago, as he always proclaimed, was a right and loyal subject of the kingdom first and foremost. In this agreement with The Crown, he promised to only harass those freighters and warships that traversed the Aten Sea on their way to the far-off Land of the Sun.

As the Aten Sea is very large, it took Santiago some time to collect enough spoils to justify returning to his homeland and paying his tithe to The Crown. It was on this homeward journey, this last, fateful journey, that terrible misfortune befell him and the entire crew of *La Pelusa Abroja*.

The night was a dark one, but clear and cool. Stars and constellations winked through the blackness, and the breeze blew steady and fast. Santiago took a deep breath of the salty air, blond hair cast from his face in defiance, and gave thanks. His hold was full of spoils from the seas: gold and silver, spices, whisky, exotic treats, toys, and swords. His belly was full of the last catch of this journey. His spirits were raised by the spirits he'd consumed and his heart was light.

The coast of his homeland was in sight, a solid darkness against the star-speckled sky and white tipped sea. The lighthouse on the spur was flashing its warm, familiar glow back and forth across the channel. Santiago could almost taste the familiar aromas of bakeries and distilleries, leather-workers and blacksmiths. By morning, they would be pulling up to the docks and unloading the booty. For an official first foray into the great seas, this adventure was turning out exactly as he had imagined.

This pirating, no *privateering*, thing was easy. They would be home in no time!

Suddenly, the sea beside them began to roil and froth, whitecaps rising higher and higher until they licked the deck's rails. Within the tumultuous waters, Santiago noticed a creature of magnificent proportions, with great shining eyes and massive tentacles. He could not believe his eyes! Creatures of the deep do not appear this close to land! The heavy food and whisky must be playing tricks on him.

It was when one of these tentacles flopped onto the deck, writhing and slimy with algae, that Santiago realized this was no trick of drink. The creature must have followed them all the way from the great Maelstrom of Sun Dragon. Santiago cursed. This was the *last* thing they needed during the final hours of their journey. Dodging out of the way, he pulled his trusty rapier, *el espalon del gallo*, as the tentacle smashed through the cabin wall.

"Monster afoot!" The first mate cried, "All hands on deck!"

Sailors swarmed up from the hold, some carrying crude weapons, other scurrying up the rigging to prepare the ship for evasive maneuvers. Santiago stared momentarily into the terrible eye of the beast which he now knew as a Kraken, a huge squid-like monster with the intelligence of a man.

The Kraken was making short work of his ship. The aft mast had already been cracked in twain and they were listing to one side. Sailors ineffectively fired pistols into the creature, but the bullets bounced off like pebbles. The first mate leaned on the helm, but the ship began sailing in dizzying spirals. Water was flooding in from a hundred different holes. Crew members were being grabbed and pulled toward the monster's toothy maw.

It was hopeless, Santiago thought, hacking at one purplish appendage. Every time they severed one, it seemed that two more took its place. Try as they might, he feared they were doomed.

“Abandon ship!” Santiago called, mentally sobbing at the loss of such great treasures.

Lifeboats launched, sailors cast themselves off the ship with terror. The creature snagged at those as well, as their occupants tried to desperately row away from the grasping tentacles. Santiago, hanging on to the main mast, watched as one-by-one, his crew was taken from him, stolen by the brutality of the sea.

When the chaos finally began to calm, the monster sated by the lives of his many man, it slipped silently away, back down into the inky depths. Santiago was left alone. *La Pelusa Abroja*, fatally crippled, was silent, save for the creak of mangled rigging, the crack of fallen timber, and the snap of ruined sails.

– *fin* –

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR SANTIAGO’S NEXT ADVENTURE IN THE OCTOBER FORTRESS:

Episode 2: The Knarrarbringa

***Disclaimer:** Any resemblance to people or places, real or fictional, is completely a coincidence. All events are for entertainment purposes only and never actually happened.

This is the June 2020 issue of the The Fortress, a publication of the Barony of Caerthe of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Fortress is available from Andrew Harness, SCA Lord Khaliu Cessilus, 2030 W 10th avenue, apartment 202, Broomfield, CO 80020 and email: chronicler@caerthe-sca.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2020 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

All submissions to the Fortress must be received no later than 8:00pm on the 25th day of the month prior to publication of the newsletter. Publications will occur in January, April, June, October of 2020.

Content submitted to the Fortress must be accompanied by the proper release forms.

For further information, questions, and concerns, please contact the baronial chronicler at chronicler@caerthe-sca.org

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